

that twelve young women and men from Central New Jersey will be enrolling in America's service academies this year. They are the very best of an exceptional group, and I was proud to nominate them.

Five young men from the area will be attending the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York, to be commissioned as officers in the United States Army. I would like to recognize Kenneth Elgort of Montgomery, Ivan Eno of Interlaken, Chris Larsen of Princeton, Eric Schlieber of Raritan, and Balint Simsik of Ringoes.

Four young people from Central New Jersey will be attending the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland, to be commissioned as officers in the United States Navy. I would like to recognize Brant DeBoer of Monroe, Brandis Kemp of Pittstown, Brian Richards of Sergeantsville, and Joshua Wort of Tewksbury.

One young man from my district will be attending the United States Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs, Colorado, to be commissioned as an officer in the United States Air Force. I would like to recognize Bryan Kelly of South Brunswick.

Two young women from Central New Jersey will be attending the United States Merchant Marine Academy. I would like to recognize Lindsay Elgart of Middletown and Victoria Millar of Princeton.

Mr. Speaker, I hope the House joins me in noting the accomplishments of these young men and women, and in wishing them the best of luck at the service academies and in their careers.

TRIBUTE TO MISSOURI STATE
HIGHWAY PATROL OFFICER
EVERETT H. MORGAN

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2001

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that Corporal Everett Morgan, of Lafayette County, Missouri, recently retired from the Missouri State Highway Patrol after 35 years of outstanding service.

Corporal Morgan has dutifully served the citizens of Missouri for three decades. He was born in Corder, Missouri, and later graduated from Corder High School. Corporal Morgan then attended Central Missouri State University. In 1963 Everett joined the U.S. Army and served for six years at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, and Fort Still, Oklahoma. While serving in the U.S. Army, Corporal Morgan attended and graduated from Missouri State Highway Patrol Recruit Training.

Corporal Morgan's first assignment was to Troop A, in Jackson County, Missouri. He served Zone's 1 and 4 before being promoted to Corporal and assigned to Zone 7. Corporal Morgan served the last five years in the Gaming Division until retiring on April 1, 2001.

Mr. Speaker, Corporal Morgan has dedicated 35 years to the Missouri State Highway Patrol, serving with honor and distinction. I know that the Members of the House will join me in wishing him all the best in his retirement.

TRIBUTE TO THE MICHIGAN
FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2001

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the members and leadership of the Michigan Fraternal Order of Police for the vital role they play in supporting law enforcement throughout the state and for their far-reaching volunteer efforts and unparalleled generosity.

The National Fraternal Order of Police is well-known for standing sentinel for more than 290,000 men and women in law enforcement across America, including 12,000 members in more than 50 lodges in Michigan. For many years, the organization has protected and defended the interests of its members and their families in public policy debates and other forums that help formulate rules and legislation affecting the way police officers do their job, including recently spearheading an effort for tuition waivers for survivors of police officers killed in the line of duty.

Under the strong leadership of Executive Director John Buczek and President Kevin Sommers, the organization, does much more than address the critical concerns of its members. It also has a well-deserved and laudable reputation for responding to local communities and charities with donations and service that greatly enhance the image of police officers as the trusted, kind and dependable keepers of the peace that children and others in need can turn to for assistance.

In particular, members of the Michigan Fraternal Order of Police deserve high praise for their collective and individual support of many charities, sports teams, scholarship programs and post-prom parties on behalf of young people statewide. Each year, the organization awards \$20,000 in scholarships to Michigan eighth-graders for an essay contest designed to encourage students to say no to drugs and alcohol. They also operate a children's identification program in association with Wal-Mart Corporation and just began a Kids and Cops at the Circus program, which allowed them to take 1,000 children to the Shrine Circus. Additionally, the group fields a team of runners in the Special Olympics Torch Run, raising over \$10,000 for people with disabilities.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing gratitude to the members and leadership of the Michigan Fraternal Order of Police for their good will and big-heartedness and in wishing them continued success in all their noble endeavors.

THE OHIO LATINO ARTS
ASSOCIATION 2001 CONFERENCE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2001

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the Ohio Latino Arts Association 2001 Conference, "El Milenio Latino," to be held in Cleveland, Ohio.

This year the Ohio Latino Arts Association, OLAA, will be celebrating a year in the arts in the heart of Cleveland, Ohio at the Museum of

Art. Their theme, "El Milenio Latino," the Latino Millennium, embodies the diversity and ethnicity involved with this very special conference.

The organization's mission is to "identify, preserve, promote, and develop Latino cultural expression." This conference will further that mission through keynote speakers, art workshops, panel discussions, and many other activities. Cultural expression and diversity will be a key theme throughout the entire weekend, as people from all walks of life gather to celebrate their differences.

Over 500 visitors are expected to attend this conference sponsored by a network of Latino cultural arts organizations and artists. The Ohio Latino Arts Association thrives to encourage the development of a "first voice" for Latinos in the arts, and this weekend is a wonderful opportunity to do just that.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognition of the Ohio Latino Arts Association for their many years of dedicated service and their Ninth Annual Conference to be held in Cleveland, Ohio.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2001

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call Vote 126 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present I would have voted "yea". I am proud of our Pearl Harbor veterans and the thousands of young men who gave their lives for their country that day.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "GLOBAL
ACCESS TO HIV/AIDS PREVEN-
TION, AWARENESS, EDUCATION,
AND TREATMENT ACT OF 2001"

HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2001

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, the time has come once again for the United States to lead the world in surmounting one of the most compelling humanitarian and moral challenges of our time. I speak of the HIV/AIDS pandemic that threatens the stability of both the developing and developed world—a crisis unparalleled in modern times.

The statistics are chilling, Mr. Speaker. Over 22 million people have died of AIDS throughout the world. More than 3 million died last year alone. That is over 8,000 deaths each day, or nearly one death every six minutes. What is most alarming is that the number of infections and deaths is growing and the pandemic is quickly spreading from sub-Saharan Africa to India, China, and Russia. An incredible 36 million people are infected with HIV today—and 15,000 new infections occur each day. Tragically, most of the dramatic increase in infection rates is in poor countries where education, awareness, and access to healthcare is seriously lacking. To illustrate the magnitude of the crisis, it is estimated that by the year 2010 over 80 million people could be dead of AIDS. That is more than all the military and civilian deaths during World War II.

Unchecked, we have no idea what the statistics will be in 2015 or 2220—less than 20 years from today.

Children suffer inordinately from the cruel AIDS pandemic. Millions are born HIV-infected even though mother-to-child transmission can be easily avoided if adequate training and healthcare is provided. By the end of the decade, 40 million children will be orphaned as a consequence of AIDS. The impact on developing societies—socially, politically, and economically—is incalculable and threatens the stability of the globe.

The pandemic is not limited to Africa, Mr. Speaker. The Caribbean region has the second highest rate of HIV infections in the world—only a few hundred miles from the United States. Russia had the highest increase rate of any country last year. The social upheaval that could arise in Russia as a result of this crisis could have serious consequences for global security. According to the National Intelligence Council, India is on the verge of a catastrophic AIDS epidemic.

For these reasons, the United States must lead the world in the effort to combat and ultimately rid the globe of this modern-day black plague. The problem is monumental, and our response needs to be both bilateral and multilateral. However, as with any problem, financial resources are not the sole answer to a problem, and the generosity of the American people must be well managed. We must provide resources at a pace at which they can be absorbed and used wisely. We must continue to encourage and support faith-based organizations and churches that are doing good works to educate the poor about HIV and AIDS. We must also insist that other developed nations join us in this global effort. The President has already signaled our nation's intention to lead by committing \$200 million for a multilateral effort to combat HIV/AIDS through a global AIDS war chest that will be designed and implemented in the months to come.

To support these efforts, I have introduced legislation today to address both the bilateral and multilateral pillars of our response to the AIDS crisis. The most immediate and important step to address the HIV/AIDS challenge is for the United States to provide the leadership and impetus for a major international effort.

Consequently, my bill authorizes the Agency for International Development to carry out a comprehensive program of HIV/AIDS prevention, education, and treatment at a level of \$469 million in each of the next two fiscal years. This is \$100 million more than has been requested by the Administration for these purposes in Fiscal Year 2001. Moreover, my legislation authorizes an additional \$50 million pilot program to provide treatment for those infected with HIV/AIDS by assisting the public and private sectors of developing countries in the procurement of HIV/AIDS pharmaceuticals and anti-viral therapies. Accordingly, through our bilateral efforts, the United States will demonstrate its commitment to address all facets of the HIV/AIDS challenge and to do so in a responsible and meaningful manner, and thereby challenge the remainder of the developed world to emulate the example of the United States.

The bill I have introduced today also authorizes the President to contribute to multilateral

efforts to combat HIV/AIDS at a level that the Administration deems appropriate. America will contribute its fair share as we work to leverage additional funds for this crusade from other developing countries. By providing the President with this flexibility, we can ensure that the contributions made by the

The novel bilateral treatment program that my bill authorizes is vitally important, for it gives hope for those already suffering from AIDS. By authorizing a pilot treatment program, we can work to extend the productive lives of those infected by the virus. This is not only the right thing to do—aside from humanitarian concerns—treatment makes prevention work. Without some expectation of hope or care, the poor have no reason to be tested for AIDS or to seek help. I am fully cognizant of the challenge posed by treatment programs in developing countries. However, we have no other option if we are ever to stem the tide of the pandemic.

The bill that I have introduced today also promotes microenterprise development as a crucial component in the struggle against HIV/AIDS. Microenterprise gives the poor who must deal with HIV/AIDS the means to help themselves. I wish to highlight the work in this area by Opportunity International, one of the organizations among my constituency. Opportunity International is a microenterprise pioneer and leader that has helped to create one million jobs for the poor of the developing world over the past thirty years by making loans to small enterprises.

Charles Dokmo, President and Chief Operating Officer of Opportunity International, is an expert in the field of microenterprise development and is working to implement an ambitious plan to combat the spread of AIDS in Africa through education, awareness, and by creating opportunities for those confronting HIV/AIDS.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to reiterate what I think is a consensus in Congress. Simply stated, the AIDS virus is one of the great moral challenges of our era for it is a scourge of unparalleled proportions in modern times. Every citizen has a stake in what tragically could be the black plague of the 21st century. Accordingly, we should do all we can to meet this test by reaching out now to those most in need—it is the right thing to do for our children, our country, and our world. Let us not fail the challenge.

IT IS TIME TO FINISH WHAT WE
STARTED IN 1964

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2001

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, this morning the United States Commission on Civil Rights released its report on Florida's election system. To say the least, I am appalled by the Commission's findings. To think that in this day and age we find ourselves trying to justify the racist and prejudicial tendencies that exist in the American election system is both pitiful and disturbing.

From purging the names of eligible voters to increasing numbers of spoiled ballots, the

Commission's report clearly indicates that the problems which occurred in Florida last November disproportionately affected the votes cast by African-Americans and other minority groups. While only making up eleven percent of all eligible voters in Florida, African-Americans cast nearly 55 percent of the ballots that were rejected in Florida. In fact, African-Americans cast nearly 55 percent of the ballots that were rejected in Florida. In fact, African-American voters were nearly ten times more likely than white voters to have their ballots rejected in Florida. Nine of the ten counties with the highest percentage of African-American voters had disqualified ballot percentages above the state average. Of the 100 precincts with the highest numbers of disqualified ballots, 83 of them are majority-black precincts.

African-Americans were also disproportionately purged from voter lists. Under the Motor Voter Law, voters are protected from having their names removed from voting lists unless they move, die, or are convicted of a felony. In Florida, however, it appears as if the Motor Voter Law has been replaced by a system in which the names of eligible voters are unlawfully purged. In Miami-Dade County, the number of African-American names purged from eligible voter lists outnumbered the number of white and Hispanic voters whose names were removed from eligible voting lists three to one.

Moreover, the report's findings that an official of the Florida Division of Elections supported updating voting lists in a manner that removed a disproportionate number of African-Americans from eligible voting lists leaves little question that the State of Florida could have avoided the problems voters faced on election day. The Commission's report makes it clear that both Governor Jeb Bush and Florida Secretary of State Katherine Harris were well aware of the potential problems that some of Florida's counties were going to face on election day. However,

Mr. Speaker, the report issued by the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights highlights the problems that we face in Florida, and indeed, the rest of the nation. It is disgraceful that America has yet to create an election system that encourages rather than discourages. It is disgraceful that the conversations we are having today on voter accessibility, voter education, purging of eligible voters, and improving voting technology resemble the same conversations we had during the 1960s. Those of us involved in the Civil Rights Movement had hoped that Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965 would have ensured that no African-American, or any American for that matter, would be unlawfully turned away from the polls. Unfortunately, the reality is, it will take an Election Reform Act during the 107th Congress to finish what we started in 1964.

HONORING DAVID GROSSBERG

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2001

Mr. GRAY G. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute and honor to the